

The National Parks Service has announced that effective May 19, a new military pass is available to active duty service members and their families for free. The annual pass will be accepted at all public land sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees, including those managed by the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Army Corps.

The pass, which normally costs \$80, provides access to sites that charge an entrance or standard amenity fee for one full year. If the park charges a per-vehicle fee, the pass will get the holder and accompanying passengers in for free. The pass also gets the holder and up to three additional adults in for free at parks charging a per-person fee.

The pass doesn't cover expanded amenity fees, which means costs for activities such as camping or rock climbing.

The pass is generally sold at any site that charges admission. Check out this website to see which parks sell the annual pass (<http://store.usgs.gov/pass/PassIssuanceList.pdf>). Be sure to bring valid military ID cards.

Answers to frequently asked questions can be found at (<http://www.store.usgs.gov/pass/military.html>).

The pass gives active duty service members and their families a chance to visit 2,000 participating parks for free.

More questions — call 1-888-ASK USGS (1-888-275-8747), Ext. 1.